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ORGANISATION	<u>FUNDECYT-PCTEX</u>
Profile	<p>The Foundation FUNDECYT Scientific and Technological Park of Extremadura (Fundecyt-PCTEx) is a body governed by public law based in Extremadura (Spain) with the aim of contributing to the social and economic exploitation of science and technology in the region, supporting and promoting scientific and technological development and a better use of research and innovation outcomes.</p> <p>As the <u>Scientific and Technological Park of Extremadura</u>, we offer the spaces and the necessary services to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, science and technology in the region. FUNDECYT-PCTEX hosts more than 70 innovative companies in its facilities and, in addition to the assistance provided to tenants, we support regional entrepreneurs and SMEs for the development and consolidation of business ideas.</p> <p>Moreover, playing the role of a <u>Development and Innovation Agency</u>, we provide technical assistance to the Regional Government for the design and implementation of policies, such as the Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) or the Digital Agenda of Extremadura, and work in close relation with enterprises, the University of Extremadura, R&D centres and other regional stakeholders to foster innovation.</p> <p>Regional framework</p> <p>Extremadura is a European region located in the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula. It is formed by the provinces of Cáceres and Badajoz, and represents the 7.0% of the Iberian territory with 41,634 Km² and the 2.35% of the Spanish population with 1,096,421 inhabitants.</p> <p>The region is characterized by its large territory, a low population density (26 inhabitants per km²), a rich natural and cultural heritage (30% of the territory is under some kind of special protection) and an economy strongly linked to the tertiary sector, with a lower</p>



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	<p>weight of the industrial sector, mainly related to the agrofood industry.</p> <p>On this regard, after the services sector (almost 60%) the farming sector is the second largest one, with 16.6% of all employed people in the region. Industry sector is less developed and the main industrial subsectors are the energy sector (especially sustainable energy), the agro-industrial sector, the cork industry, the textile industry and the ornamental stone industry. As for the business structure of the region, 99.96% of all Extremadura enterprises are SME (95.91% are micro, 0-9 employees).</p> <p>Extremadura is the only European region in Spain that receives Structural Funds from the European Union, earmarked for the priority regions in the Cohesion Policy for the period 2014-2020. Through the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization (RIS3), Extremadura aims to transform the region into a space for innovation in environmental sustainability and quality of life. This transformation is expected to be achieved by the promotion of 5 areas such as agriculture and food processing, clean energy, tourism, healthcare, and information and communication technologies. Besides, the specialisation will enable the generation of competitive and comparative advantages in Extremadura's socioeconomic fabric, which will lead to strategic positioning that creates business opportunities and, in consequence, job opportunities and wellbeing for its citizens.</p>
<p>Previous experience in European projects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SYMBI (2016-2021) Industrial Symbiosis for Regional Sustainable Growth and a Resource Efficient Circular Economy. INTERREG EUROPE (recently approved): The project aims to improve the provisions and support the implementation of policy instruments and measures for the diffusion of industrial symbiosis, to add value, reduce production costs, and relieve environmental pressures through increased resource efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions. The overall improvement is anticipated to positively contribute in regional sustainable development and job creation. ➤ Beyond EDP (2016-2021) Improve the RIS3 effectiveness through the management of the entrepreneurial discovery process. INTERREG EUROPE (recently approved): The aim of this project is to improve RIS3 through EDP management and adapt Research Development and Innovation (RDI) public policies more effectively to local business needs. Therefore, a more effective RIS3 will, on the one hand create an ecosystem in each European region able to detect new opportunities and/or develop existing ones (potential specialization domains), and on



	<p>the other, foster the absorption of knowledge by companies to implement these opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ INTRA (2016-2021) Internationalisation of regional SMEs. INTERREG EUROPE (recently approved): Increased internationalization reveals: 1. barriers and needs of SMEs entering the internal as well as international markets; 2. the gaps between the public policies and the actual needs of companies. In order to facilitate the evidence based policy making on regional level the main objective of the INTRA is to better understand and address the internationalization of SMEs, in particular the policy instruments within European Regional Development Fund. ➤ EEN (since 2008). FUNDECYT-PCTEX is member of the Enterprise Europe Network supporting SMEs regarding innovation, research and technological transfer, business development advice by means of incubation, and participation in European projects. www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu ➤ EFES (2017- 2019) - Cross-border Ecosystem for the promotion of entrepreneurship and the social economy of impact in the EUROACE region is a cooperation project funded under INTERREG ESPAÑA-PORTUGAL (POCTEP) programme, leadered by the D. G. Business and Entrepreneurship of the Regional Government of Extremadura. The project is addressed to entrepreneurs, traditional enterprises wanted to innovate from social orientation. ➤ RAISE (2018-2020) – Rural Action for Innovative and Sustainable Entrepreneurship for Youth (RAISE Youth) EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment programme.
Interests for future projects proposals	Smart specialisations strategies, cooperation projects
3 key words	Regional, Innovation ecosystem, DIH
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